

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 16890 211550Z

60

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 /108 W

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R 211531Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6796

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, UK, SP

SUBJECT: UK IMPOSES ANTIDUMPING DUTIES ON STEEL BARS
FROM SPAIN

1. THE UK GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THE IMPOSITION OF A
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PAGE 02 LONDON 16890 211550Z

PROVISIONAL ANTIDUMPING DUTY OF TEN PERCENT ON SPANISH

STAINLESS STEEL BARS. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE UK HAS TAKEN THE UNUSUAL STEP OF IMPOSING AN ANTIDUMPING DUTY BEFORE THE FINAL DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE. THIS IS CLEARLY PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT EFFORT TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO INDUSTRY COMPLAINTS OF INADEQUATE PROTECTION FROM A WIDE RANGE OF IMPORTS. (SEE LONDON 13728, 16594 AND 14199.)

2. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT THE PROVISIONAL SPANISH ANTIDUMPING DUTY MAY BE THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF SIMILAR PROTECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST IMPORTS OF CHEAP FOREIGN STEEL. DEPARTMENT OF TRADE UNDERSECRETARY MEACHER HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT THE EC COMMISSION HAS BEEN ASKED TO APPROACH SWEDEN AND AUSTRIA ABOUT THEIR IMPORTS OF LOW-COST SPECIALTY STEEL INTO THE UK. INDUSTRY SOURCES ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT FRG TOOL STEEL INTO BRITAIN, BUT HAVE NOT YET OFFERED ANY EVIDENCE OF GERMAN DUMPING TO THE UK DEPARTMENT OF TRADE.

3. THE PROVISIONAL DUTY ON SPANISH STAINLESS STEEL BARS APPLIES FOR 90 DAYS WHILE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE COMPLETES ITS INVESTIGATION. THE COMPLAINT FROM THE BRITISH INDEPENDENT STEEL PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION ALLEGES THAT THE MARGIN OF DUMPING IS AS HIGH AS 35 PERCENT IN SOME CASES. THE COMPLAINT WAS FILED AFTER INDUSTRY-TO-INDUSTRY TALKS WITH THE SPANISH FAILED TO MAKE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS. IMPORTS OF STAINLESS STEEL BARS FROM SPAIN HAVE NOW REACHED ABOUT ONE MILLION POUNDS STERLING PER YEAR, REPRESENTING APPROXIMATELY 1,500 TONS OF BARS.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STEEL, ANTIDUMPING DUTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON16890
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760396-0121
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761029/aaaaayvb.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK IMPOSES ANTIDUMPING DUTIES ON STEEL BARS FROM SPAIN
TAGS: ETRD, UK, SP, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006